

CORONA

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"PROJECT DISCOVERER SATELLITE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY DOD

The first attempt to launch a satellite over the Pacific Missile Range will be made late this year or early next year from Vandenberg AFB, California, the DOD announced today. This launching will be part of a series designated PROJECT DISCOVERER - to be carried out by the Department of the Air Force under the direction of the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The purpose of ARPA's PROJECT DISCOVERER is to continue development of a number of systems and techniques which will be employed in the operation of space vehicles. Although no precise number of launchings has been scheduled for the project, it is expected a considerable number will be attempted because of the nature and variety of the experiments involved and the fact that the satellites will orbit for short periods of time.

The initial launchings primarily will be to test the vehicle itself, especially its propulsion and guidance. Later, the satellites will contain biomedical specimens to seek data on environmental conditions which will be useful to the man-in-space program being carried out jointly by ARPA and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. As part of this program, live animals also will be carried aloft and their recovery attempted in order to develop the techniques involved.

The first DISCOVERER satellite is a modified THOR IRBM produced by the Douglas Aircraft Company. The second

NRO review(s) completed.